

I am Teresa Bournique, a high school teacher who resides in East Granby, Ct. I am writing to oppose HB 6645 - An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients. I deeply feel that this Act violates the public trust afforded to those in legislative decision-making and in healthcare. The community is ill-served by such a law - there should never be a precedent set for legally ending an innocent person's life or for the use of medicine to end life. This is a disturbing and destructive concept to be presented under the heading of "Compassionate Aid/" The efforts of the community, and especially of medical professionals, must be single-minded toward providing care and comfort of those who are ill and suffering. Ending a life is not caregiving. This Act leaves open the very real possibility that those who are meant to provide care for vulnerable sick or elderly citizens will seek to end those lives for the sake of convenience or expediency. This potential for abuse also leads me to oppose this Act.

Please accept as my testimony my opposition to this Act also on the grounds that this sends a message regarding suicide that is very harmful to vulnerable yet healthy young people, who end their lives out of a lack of hope. The community must provide a consistent message to all citizens of the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in all circumstances. This Act undermines these inviolable truths.

I respectfully request that the State's efforts and funds be directed instead toward support for programs that provide palliative care to terminal patients, such as the excellent Hopsice nurse program that attended to my own father in the last stages of terminal brain cancer at the end of his life.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Teresa Bournique

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